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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended)

A child-resistant closure and container package that includes:

a container having a finish with at least one external thread, at least one pocket in an undersurface of said external thread, and an axially facing end surface surrounding a container mouth, and

a closure having a base wall, a skirt with an axis, at least one internal thread and at least one lug on said internal thread for receipt in said pocket, and a spring disposed between said base wall and said end surface of said finish to bias said closure away from said finish and urge said lug into said pocket,

said spring comprising a progressive spring that includes at least two circumferentially continuous concentric flexible resilient conical spring rings extending from said base wall at identical angles to said axis,

said spring rings being radially spaced from each other, and a first of said spring rings having a greater axial dimension than a second of said spring rings and axially and radially overlapping said second spring ring,

such that, upon threaded application of said closure to said finish, said first spring ring is engaged by said end surface and, upon further application of said closure to said finish, said first spring ring is bent into engagement with said second spring ring such that forces applied by said first spring ring to said end surface, both to seal said package

and to bias said closure away from said finish, is a progressive sum of forces generated in said first and second spring rings,

said first spring ring but not said second spring ring contacting said end surface,

wherein said spring rings are of differing thicknesses, said first spring ring being thinner than said second spring ring, and

wherein said progressive spring includes a third conical circumferentially continuous flexible resilient spring ring concentric with said first and second spring rings and extending from said base wall at an angle to said axis identical to that of said first and second spring rings,

said third spring ring being disposed adjacent to said second spring ring and remote from said first spring ring,

said third spring ring being of lesser axial dimension than said second spring ring,

said second spring ring axially and radially overlapping said third spring ring such that, upon continued threaded application of said closure to said finish, forces applied to said second spring ring by said first spring ring bend said second spring ring into engagement with said third spring ring and said spring forces applied by said first spring ring to said end surface are a progressive sum of forces generated in said first, second and third spring rings,

said first spring ring but not said second spring ring or said third spring ring contacting said end surface.

32-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended)

A closure for application to a container neck finish having an end surface, which includes:

a base wall, a skirt with an axis, at least one internal thread for receipt on the container neck finish, and a spring to bias said closure away from the finish,

said spring comprising a progressive spring that includes at least two circumferentially continuous concentric flexible resilient conical spring rings extending from said base wall at identical angles to said axis,

said spring rings being radially spaced from each other, and a first of said spring rings having a greater axial dimension than a second of said spring rings and axially and radially overlapping said second spring ring,

such that, upon threaded application of said closure to a container finish, said first spring ring is positioned to be engaged by an end surface of the container finish and, upon further application of said closure to the finish, said first spring ring is bent into engagement with said second spring ring such that forces applied by said first spring ring to the finish end surface, both to seal the container and to bias said closure away from the container finish, is a progressive sum of forces generated in said first and second spring rings,

said first spring ring but not said second spring ring being disposed to contact the end surface of the container finish.

wherein said spring rings are of differing thicknesses, said first spring ring being thinner than said second spring ring, and

wherein said progressive spring includes a third conical circumferentially continuous flexible resilient spring ring concentric with said first and second spring rings and extending from said base wall at an angle to said axis identical to that of said first and second spring rings,

said third spring ring being disposed adjacent to said second spring ring and remote from said first spring ring,

said third spring ring being of lesser axial dimension than said second spring ring,

said second spring ring axially and radially overlapping said third spring ring such that, upon continued threaded application of said closure to the container finish, forces applied to said second spring ring by said first spring ring bend said second spring ring into engagement with said third spring ring and said spring forces applied by said first spring ring to the finish end surface are a progressive sum of forces generated in said first, second and third spring rings,

said first spring ring but not said second spring ring or said third spring ring being disposed to contact the finish end surface.

35-36 (Cancelled)